



27 July 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: James H. Taylor
Secretary, Executive Advisory Group

FROM: Herbert E. Hetu
Director of Public Affairs

SUBJECT: President's Visit

REFERENCE: Your Memorandum, Same Subject,
Dated 24 July 1978

In connection with tasks outlined in the reference, two proposals are attached:

--The DCI's brief welcoming remarks to be presented on the steps of the Headquarters Building when the President arrives; and,

--A suggested theme for the President to follow when he addresses Agency employees in the Auditorium.

STATINTL



Herbert E. Hetu

Attachment: a/s

31

Welcoming Remarks for the DCI On the Occasion of
the President's Visit to CIA Headquarters, August 1978

Mr. President,

On behalf of all of the ladies and gentlemen of the Central
Intelligence Agency--welcome.

And Mr. President, it is my great privilege to be able to present
to you the extremely able, dedicated people of the world's finest
intelligence organization. I always knew they were good, but I didn't
realize just how good until I became one of them a year and a half
ago. In all candor, that revelation is among the most delightful
of my entire career in government service. I cannot praise the
dedication and professionalism of these people enough.

We are of course pleased, honored, and flattered by your
visit here and by the fact that you would take the time from your
heavy responsibilities to share some time with us.

But more than that. We all recall your promise on your last
visit here to provide the American people with an accurate assessment
of the legality and propriety of intelligence activities.

Mr. President, we welcome your assessment. We are proud of the
way we conduct our business--effectively and honestly.

We are proud of our role as the only independent intelligence agency responsible directly to you and the National Security Council, and we are dedicated to your service.

You know the value of our business and how well it is performed better than anybody else. I speak for all the people of CIA when I say sincerely how delighted I am to have you with us today. You are the one person in the world most able to evaluate and appreciate our performance.

Again, welcome, and thank you for being here.

Proposed Remarks for the President

On Visiting the CIA, August 1978

Thank you, Admiral Turner; and thank you ladies and gentlemen for your warm welcome.

I came here 17 months ago to swear in Admiral Turner as your Director.

On that occasion 17 months ago I addressed my remarks very intentionally to the entire Intelligence Community--not just to the CIA--because I wanted to underscore the broader role of the new DCI to the Community leaders and others who were present here that day, as became apparent several months later with the issuance of an Executive Order that strengthened his position.

Today, however, I am here to visit the CIA and to talk to CIA people, and I am proud to be with you.

No President while in office has--until today--ever visited these premises more than once,* and after what I've seen today I'd like to be invited back again.

*(Nixon as Veep 14 Feb 53 and as President 7 Mar 69)

On my first visit here I felt a little overwhelmed by the aura of mystery that is a by-product of the secrecy that CIA has operated under for so long. I guess I shared the same misgivings about and misunderstanding of CIA as some other Americans. Even some public officials and others years ago who -- it is said -- didn't want to know everything about intelligence.

I have learned a great deal in the last year and a half--a great deal about you and about your business.

I am aware of the all-too-common perception that CIA is a beleaguered Agency, that it has its tail between its legs as it limps through a period of reform.

I do not subscribe to that perception.

I do not consider you to be beleaguered. A beleaguered CIA could not consistently provide me and the National Security Council the excellent intelligence products that we receive every day--the products so vital to our ability to make well-informed decisions.

And I do not believe you are still in the middle of an era of reform.

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We are, to be sure, working with the Congress on legislation that will incorporate and strengthen the measures already outlined in my Executive Order. Today we are talking about a new CIA, a better CIA--better because you have worked hard to make it better.

The challenge that you and I and Stan Turner all share has not changed since I was here last. Our job is to balance the demands for openness in a free society against the needs of national security, to confront the conflict that exists between frankness and public scrutiny of your business. Your support of our policy of greater openness has made important contributions to national debate on vital issues, and I applaud your efforts to share useful unclassified information.

Your responsibility to provide good intelligence has not changed since our last meeting, but my feelings about your job have been altered in important ways. For example, I now understand the difficult conditions under which you often are forced to operate, conditions you are sometimes helpless to combat.

During my first 3 or 4 months in office I did not fully appreciate the devastating effect that leaks can have. When our most precious secrets are compromised--intelligence sources and methods revealed--lives are endangered, years of human cultivation are lost forever, and our technical superiority is dangerously reduced.

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My feelings have also been altered regarding the myth that America is not getting its money's worth for the intelligence dollar.

It is different on the inside looking out. As President I've come to depend upon you and understand how important you are. I start my day with the CIA.

I am now able to assure all Americans that America has good intelligence--the best in the world. I can also assure them that each intelligence dollar is well spent--that the American intelligence record is studded with success after success.

I can also assure them of your complete objectivity. It has been said that some CIA conclusions are tailored to support the formulation of policy at the White House. Nothing could be further from the truth. I have learned the value of CIA's independence. I know I can rely on its judgments and estimates to be objective, well reasoned, and based on the best available evidence. I know that your products are uncolored by political bias; in fact, it is a hallmark of your professionalism that you let the chips fall where they will.

So these are some of the things I have learned since I last visited you and I am happy to have the chance to tell you about them in person.

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Americans should know you as I do, that you do your job well--
better than anybody else--and I intend to tell them so at every
opportunity.

Thank you for having me.

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Remarks:					
<p>Attached is a set of papers regarding the President's proposed visit which will be the topic of this afternoon's EAG meeting.</p>					
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James H. Taylor, Secretary, EAG			7/28/78		
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